

*S.F. / DDS + T*  
*Chino.*  
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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

30 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT: Explanation of the COMOR Working Group's  
Views on the Importance of Targets for  
the [ ] Mission

1. On Monday morning, 28 October, I talked with  
[ ] of OSA and was advised  
that in addition to coverage of the NEFA area of the Sino-Indian  
border another mission was planned to cover some transportation  
routes between the NEFA area and the Ladakh area. In my own  
mind, I doubted that this intermediate area warranted a special  
mission. I accordingly dispatched the following telecon to the  
COMOR and Working Group members:

"In case of Sino-Indian border, COMOR  
at last meeting (COMOR-M-208, para 3a) indicated  
that except for the NEFA area further coverage  
not necessary at this time. However, Chairman  
advised by Operations that it wishes a confirmation  
this statement takes account of fact that there are  
transportation targets in area between NEFA and  
Ladakh for which a mission is planned. Chairman  
requested Working Group to consider this at meeting  
29 October, to advise Chairman immediately as well  
as principals on COMOR so that by cob on that date  
Chairman will have views to transmit to Operations.

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2. [redacted] of OSA also advised of the conclusion of the COMOR Working Group on Tuesday, 29 October, that they did not consider these targets by themselves to be of important significance so as to warrant a special mission.

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3. My concern in this regard was that COMOR must remain as alert as possible with regard to the coverage of COMOR targets, particularly in high risk areas, in order that risk is not taken needlessly. Were that mission [redacted] to have failed, the first immediate question would likely have been "Why did it go?" We need to be able to answer that question.

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4. On the other hand, needless to say, if the Secretary of Defense wants this area and the Director is willing to instruct it to be obtained, the matter is out of our hands.

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[redacted]  
James Q. Reber

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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9 SA/DDS&T  
10 SA/DDS&T  
11 SA/DDS&T

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